

The President's Radio Address November 16, 1996

Good morning. As I've said many times, America is the world's indispensable nation, the one the world looks to for leadership because of our strength and our values. This week I've taken two important decisions that are part of America's responsibilities in the world. The first is agreement, in principle, for our troops to take limited part in a mission to ease the suffering in Zaire. The second is approval, again in principle, for our troops to be part of a follow-on security presence in Bosnia. Today I want to tell you why our role in these missions matters.

Two years ago, following genocide in Rwanda, more than a million Rwandan refugees fled for Zaire. Recently their plight has worsened as fighting among militant forces has driven them from their camps. Relief agencies have been unable to provide food and water. Disease is breaking out.

As the world's most powerful nation, we cannot turn our back when so many people, especially so many innocent children, are at mortal risk. That is why, when Canada proposed to lead an international humanitarian force, I agreed that, under appropriate circumstances, America would participate. I've set out clear conditions for American participation to minimize risk and give our troops the best possible chance to make a difference.

The mission's aim must be to speed delivery of humanitarian aid and to help refugees who want to go home. Our contribution will reflect our special capabilities, such as providing airport security and helping to airlift forces. We know the mission is not risk-free, but hundreds of thousands of people are in desperate need. This is the right thing to do.

In Bosnia, because of our leadership, nearly 4 years of brutal war are over, and American troops, through the NATO-led force called IFOR, have helped to create conditions in which the Bosnians could start to rebuild. IFOR has completed its mission more successfully than anyone expected, ending the fighting, separating the forces, creating security for democratic elections. But these remarkable achievements on the military side have not been matched, despite

all our efforts, by similar progress on the civilian side.

Rebuilding the fabric of Bosnia's political and economic life is taking more time than anticipated. NATO has been studying options to help give the Bosnian people more time with a new security presence in Bosnia when IFOR withdraws. Having carefully reviewed these options, I have agreed that America should take part.

Before making a commitment, I must be satisfied that the new mission is clear, is limited, and is achievable. Its focus should be preventing a renewal of fighting so that reconstruction and reconciliation can accelerate. That will require a strong but limited military presence in Bosnia, able to respond quickly and decisively to any cease-fire violations. This new mission will be more limited than IFOR, charged with maintaining the stability that IFOR created.

Our military planners believe the mission will require less than half the troops our Nation contributed to IFOR, about 8,500. There will be an American commander and tough rules of engagement, and every 6 months we will review whether stability can be upheld with fewer forces.

By the end of 1997, we expect to draw down to a much smaller deterrent force, half the initial size. We will propose to our NATO allies that by June 1998 the mission's work should be done and the force should be able to withdraw.

As Zaire and Bosnia remind us, differences among people can fuel the most vicious and violent hatreds. Whether these differences are ethnic, tribal, or religious, the result is tragedy and despair. In our own country, we have seen the price we all pay whenever discrimination and hatred occur. But we also know how much is possible when people find unity and strength in their diversity. The world looks to America as a living example of how people can triumph over hatred and fear and come together as one nation under God.

This week, we lost a great American who taught us the importance of this lesson and whom people all over the world looked up to as the embodiment of the values that keep America strong, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of

Chicago. As one of the most influential Roman Catholics in modern history, Cardinal Bernardin devoted himself to bringing out the best in humanity. He taught us that what unites us is more important than what divides us, that we can meet our challenges, but only by coming together across our differences. As he said shortly before he died, "It is wrong to waste the precious gift of time given to us on acrimony and division."

This true man of God spent his entire life helping people to find their way to common ground. That was, in fact, the project he was most involved with when he died, the common-ground project to unite Catholics of different

views. Hillary and I counted him as our friend, and we'll miss him very much.

So let us all strive to find that common ground where all Americans can stand in dignity and help one another make the most of their dreams, and let us be ready to share our strength, when our values and our interests demand it, with others around the world who need a hand to help themselves to reach their dreams.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:02 p.m. on November 15 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 16.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia in Canberra November 20, 1996

President's Cup Golf Tournament

[*The exchange is joined in progress.*]

Prime Minister Howard. —I signed off a letter the other day trying to—and we're very keen for it to come here.

The President. I've told the PGA that I thought it was a good idea not to keep it always in the United States, that I thought it would be a good idea to bring it here.

Prime Minister Howard. And we're rather hoping it will actually come to the ACT right here in Canberra because they have—well, they have one really outstanding course in Canberra, as you'll find—

The President. I saw it today.

We're talking about the President's Cup; you know, the golf tournament. The PGA is trying to arrange to have it in Australia 2 years from now.

Prime Minister Howard. In '98. And naturally, in the lead-up to the Olympic games, if we can pull it off we'll be delighted—and very delighted to have the President's endorsement of the idea, too.

The President. I'm for it.

Q. Will that change the rules to allow it?

Prime Minister Howard. No.

The President. No. The Ryder Cup is an American-European contest, and it alternates.

So we just had the President's Cup in the alternating years—in the alternating 2 years we don't have Ryder Cups. It's the American team against teams essentially from Australia, Japan, and the southern part of Africa and anyplace else in the Asia-Pacific region. So we're going to alternate it.

Q. Who's the golf pro in your entourage, Mr. President?

The President. What do you mean?

Q. There were reports—

Q. [*Inaudible*—golf and you brought a golf pro with you on Air Force One.

The President. To my knowledge, that is not so. [*Laughter*]

Q. Would you have liked to?

The President. I would have, yes. I'm going to need all the help I can get tomorrow.

Zaire

Q. Will you all talk about Zaire? Is that something that—

The President. Yes. And we will have a press conference later and answer all your questions. We want to.

Prime Minister Howard. Yes, you'll have a good run. [*Laughter*]